



Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Police Department
Winter 2007 South Precinct

"South Precinct's Community Bulletin"
5101 Harding Place Nashville, TN 37211

New Recruit Class Begins

Mayor Karl Dean and Chief Ronal Serpas welcomed the 40 members of police recruit Session 56, the first officer trainee class to begin under the Dean administration.

Mayor Dean emphasized his commitment to public safety and thanked the recruits for choosing law enforcement as a career. Joining the 40 Metro members of Session 56 are eleven candidates for the Vanderbilt University Police Department.

Session 56 is slated to graduate on March 6, 2008. Session 55, with 17 trainees, will graduate November 29.

One person has been hired for Session 57, which will begin in February. An additional 48 applicants have been given conditional offers and are pending pre-employment exams. Eighty-one applicant background



files are being worked. "Recruitment and retention remains foremost on my mind. Recruiting police officers, nurses, and teachers is very difficult in these times," says Chief Serpas.

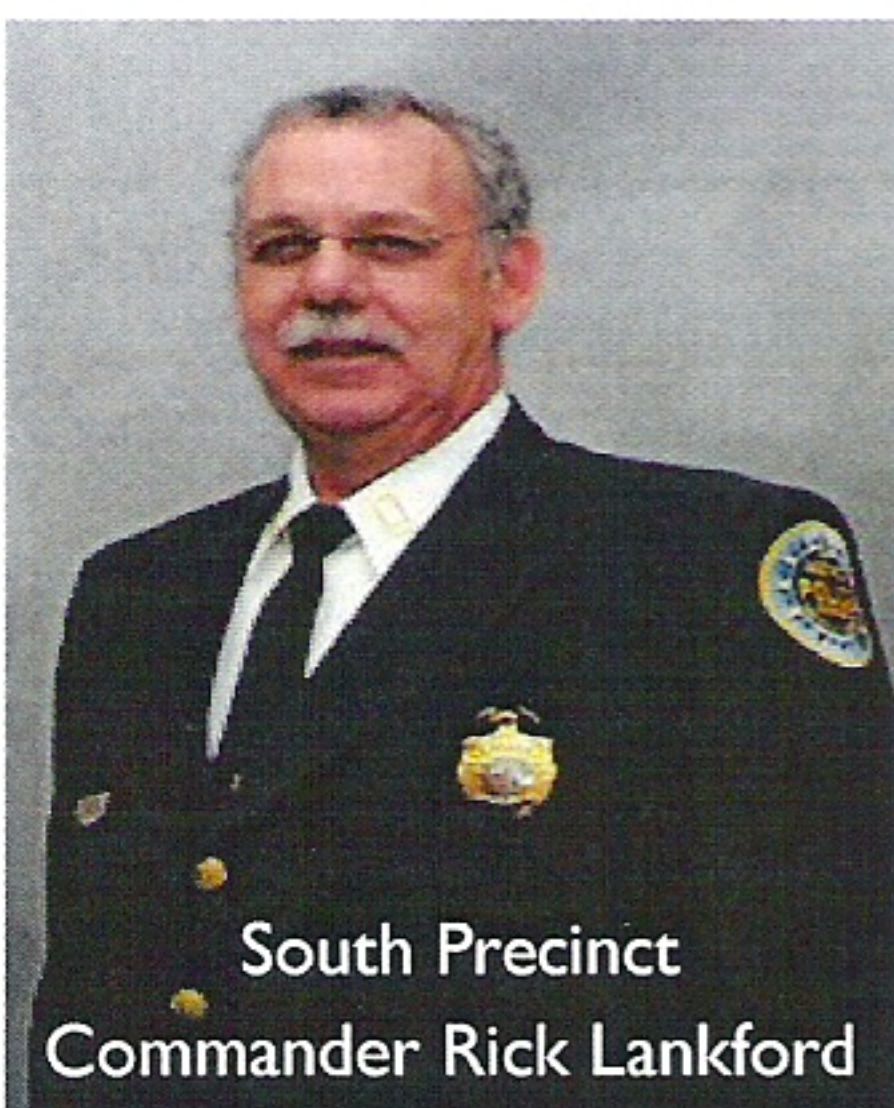
We have a new Web page that is simple and easy to remember: www.JOINMNPd.com. "I believe it is a privilege and an honor to serve in the noblest profession on the planet and in what I believe

is the finest police department in America." says Chief Serpas.



Mayor Dean speaks to recruits

Commander Lankford announces his retirement



South Precinct Commander Rick Lankford announced his retirement after serving the Nashville community over 30 years. Commander Lankford will officially leave in January 2008 after a two-week training of his replacement in December.

Chief Serpas stated "Over the past four years, I have

come to know Rick as a forward-thinking law enforcement professional and friend who continues to serve the citizens of South Nashville and this police department in an exemplary fashion. I certainly respect his decision to retire, and it has been my pleasure to work with him over these four years. We continued on page 2

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SCHOOL'S OPEN
Please Drive **CAREFULLY!**

South Precinct

Telephone Numbers

Main Office number*	862-7744
Community Coordinator *	880-3182
Fax number	880-3047
Information Desk*	880-3171
County Clerk's Office (M-F 9a-5p)	862-6050
Investigations Unit *	862-7763

* - weekdays 8a-4p

Governor's Highway Safety Grant



As the holiday season approaches, enhanced visibility on Nashville's roadways and zero tolerance for impaired drivers are the cornerstones of the police department's continuing DUI initiative using extra duty officers. Those officers, paid through a Governor's Highway Safety Office grant, target impaired drivers Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. They patrol areas with a propensity for fatal crashes, crime, and DUI arrests.



Traffic fatalities in Nashville during 2007 are down 31 % overall and 50 % during the weekend overtime grant hours.

So far this year, extra duty officers working under the highway safety grant have arrested nearly 1,500 suspected drunk drivers, a 187% increase

when compared to highway safety grant arrests at this time last year.

13th Annual Boswell's Toy Parade

The 13th Annual Boswell's Toy Parade will be Saturday, November 17th. The parade will begin at Centennial Park and end at Boswell's Harley Davidson on Fesslers Lane. All makes & models of motorcycles are welcome. The event benefits the Metro Christmas Basket Charities, Inc., a non-profit charity which gives baskets

of food and toys to needy families in the community before Christmas. Because the program has grown each year to meet the needs of the community, funding is always a matter of concern.

The motorcycle ride has been held annually for the past several years, which have been instrumental in

raising money, toys, and stuffed animals. Several other organizations have also provided money and toys. Contributions are also made by police employees and other individuals in the community.

We would like to thank Bubba Boswell and his staff and the many riders who participate in this parade.

Lankford retirement (from page 1)



(l-r) Former Mayor Purcell, Commander Lankford & Police Chief Serpas

will all have a chance to formally celebrate Rick's outstanding Metro Police career and thank him at an event to be held at the end of this year or the first of next. "

Commander Lankford has commanded the South Precinct since 1989. He also

worked in the West Sector as a Sergeant and in the Youth Services Division as a school officer at McGavock High School.

Lankford, an avid sportsman, has stated he will devote his "new found time" to fishing, however, we suspect it will be devoted to his new granddaughter. At press time,

the new commander has not been selected.

The next issue of the South Dispatch will include more on Commander Lankford's retirement and his replacement.



August Patrol Officer Of The Month

During the month of August, Field Training Officer (FTO) Burl Johnson continues to excel in his police work by reducing crime in an troubled apartment complex in his zone. FTO Johnson arrested a total of 33 persons during the month of August as well as conducting 77 business checks. The most significant activity and arrests were generated with 54 terry stops. 12 felony

charges were made as well as 51 misdemeanor arrests. Due to FTO Johnson's diligent efforts, there has been a significant reduction in crime in this area.

Also, FTO Johnson stopped a vehicle taken in a carjacking from nearby Wallace Rd. Four individuals were arrested for robbery due to this stop. One of the four individuals also had a outstanding warrant out of Texas for robbery. This exam-

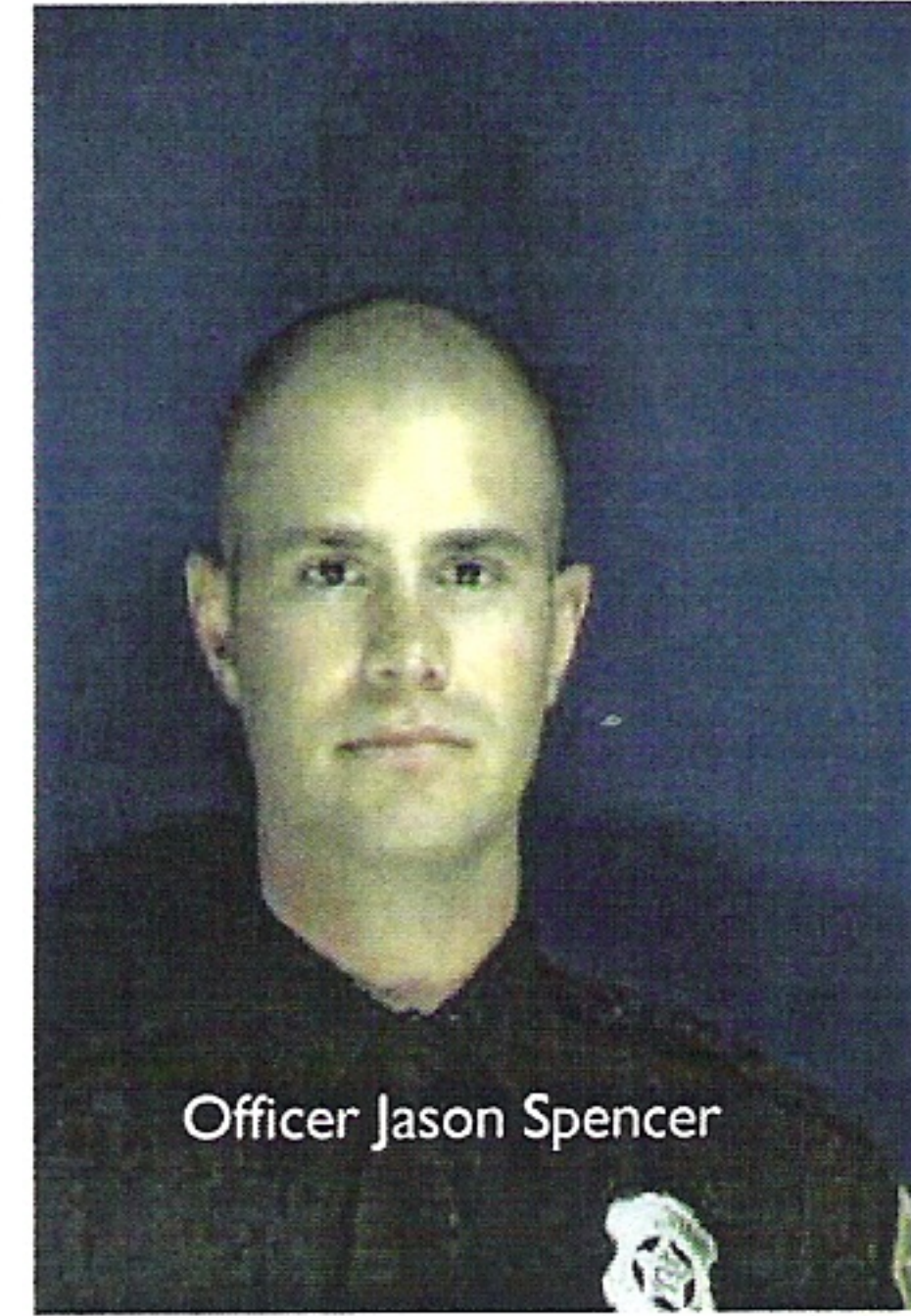
ple of vigilant work reflects greatly upon FTO Johnson and the Metro Nashville Police Department and the South Precinct is proud to present again the Officer of the Month Award for August, 2007 to FTO Burl Johnson.



September Patrol Officers Of The Month

On 9/8 Officers Christopher Bowden and Jason Spencer received an armed man with gun call at Hickory Hollow Mall. A female stated the man showed her a gun in the mall. Mall security located the man via their security cameras and advised the officers to his location. Officers Bowden & Spencer devised a tactical plan to approach the subject and successfully took him into custody without incident. A search of the sus-

pect revealed a .44 cal revolver. Further investigation showed the reporting female was actually the suspect's girlfriend. On a previous meeting the suspect had threatened to kill her because she knew too much about crimes he was committing. The weapon was stolen in a burglary. The South Precinct is proud to present the Officers of the Month Award for September, 2007 to Officers Chris Bowden & Jason Spencer.



October Patrol Officer Of The Month

On 10/23, Officer Russell Wade was dispatched to a rape call at Seven Oaks Park. The female victim stated the male suspect offered her a ride home (in the rain) but took her to the park she was raped by the suspect whom told her he was a undercover officer and that he would shoot her if she did not cooperate. Four hours later, another report of rape was reported at Seven Oaks. The

incident was very similar in nature as the first incident. As Officer Wade was transporting the 1st victim from the hospital to her residence when she spotted the suspect's vehicle. Officer Wade initiated a traffic stop on the suspect's vehicle and the suspect was taken into custody without incident. The suspect admitted to the crimes against both women and was arrested for this incident and later

charged with four additional rapes that occurred in the previous weeks. The suspect is also suspected in other sex crimes.

The South Precinct is proud to present again the Officer of the Month Award for October, 2007 to Russell Wade.



Danita Marsh Named 2007 Middle Tennessee Police Officer Of The Year



Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Maryville Police Chief and Awards Chairman Tony Crisp, and Officer Danita Marsh

Officer Danita Marsh was awarded the 2007 Middle Tennessee Police Officer of the Year Award from the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police August 3. As Officer Danita Marsh continues to recover from her gunshot wounds, the 100 Club of Nashville has committed to help her regain some of life's basic choices by financing the purchase of accessible housing and a specially equipped vehicle. Persons wanting to make a tax deductible con-

tribution to assist Officer Marsh are urged to make checks payable to the 100 Club of Nashville and include the Marsh name on the memo portion. One hundred percent of the money donated will go to the Marsh fund. Checks can be mailed to The Hundred Club of Nashville, P.O. Box 190428, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219-0428.

Metro Police Dog Recognized as Dog of the Year



Metro police dog Memphis will be recognized as Dog of the Year during the annual Cause for the Paws event sponsored by the Printers Alley Merchants' Association and benefiting Metro Animal Control.

Memphis, a Belgian Malinois, and his partner, Officer Joe Shelton, flew to Benton County on board a Metro police helicopter on October 27, 2006, to assist in the arrest of the gunman who critically wounded Officer Danita Marsh. The gunman fled from his disabled car into a pond. Sergeant James Johnson landed the helicopter and dropped off the canine team, which

went into the water and made the apprehension. Officer Shelton and Sergeant Johnson received plaques of appreciation at the awards ceremony, which was held on the front plaza of the historic Metro Courthouse.

The Cause for the Paws event was held at both Printers Alley and the Courthouse Public Square with a silent auction and the opportunity for pet adoptions. The silent auction featured items from Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Toby Keith, George Strait, Gretchen Wilson, Kenny Rogers, Charlie Daniels, and others.



Aviation Sgt. James Johnson receives award from Chief Serpas.



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Holiday Tips

Christmas is a time of year during which many of us will be busy shopping and running errands in order to be ready for the Holiday Celebration. We must not forget that criminals will also be out and about looking for easy targets to make a big score. Here are some simple tips that can reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime:

·In parking lots, *always* be aware of your surroundings
·Don't display large sums of cash. Use debit/credit cards and personal checks when-

ever possible.

·Always have your car keys in your hand when walking in parking areas.

·When possible, shop with a friend or spouse.

·Most malls provide security personnel to escort you to your vehicle. Don't be ashamed to ask!!

·Never leave valuables in plain view inside your vehicle. This is what many criminals look for, an easy target.

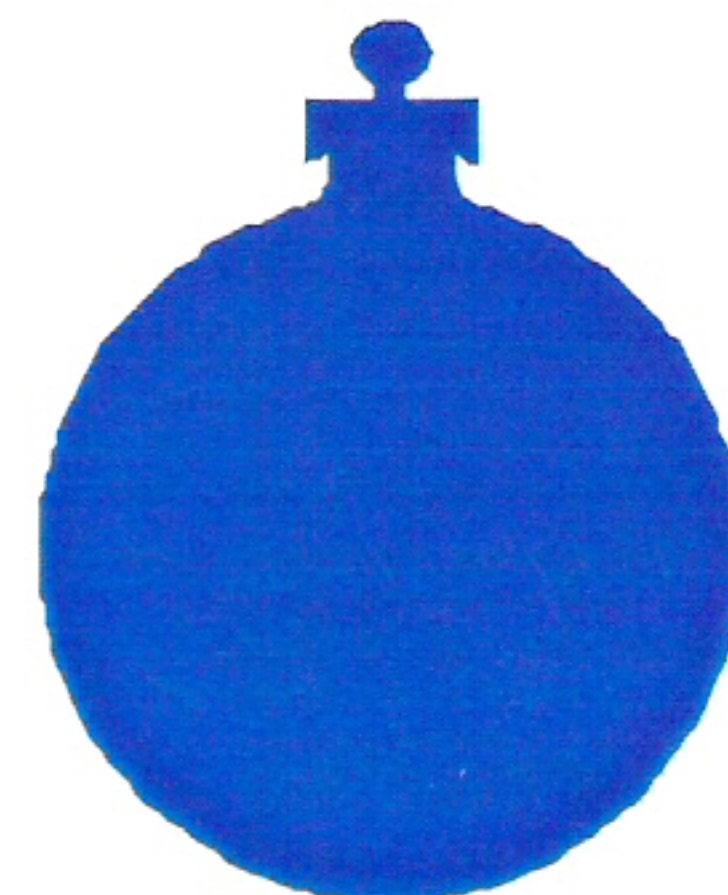
·Always scan the parking lot for suspicious persons or vehicles before you park and exit your vehicle.

·Report all suspicious per-

sons and vehicles to mall security/Metro Police immediately.

·Don't display gifts under your tree from a front window of your home. Although this looks pretty, it can be attractive to would-be thieves.

The MNPD wishes all a safe and Merry Christmas!!



Tips on Making Your Home More Secure

Don't give the burglar a helping hand. Most home burglars are amateurs looking for easy targets. They're looking for homes which present the least risk of detection; the greatest opportunity for easy gain; and the maximum potential for escape. They're looking for homes which appear to be unoccupied and unprotected; homes without adequate locks and lighting; open or unlocked doors and windows; and homes

sites which provide easy concealment from neighbors and passing motorists.

Unfortunately, the burglar doesn't need to look around very long to discover "Welcome Burglar" signs unwittingly left around many homes. It is even more unfortunate when you realize all it takes to make your home less inviting to a burglar is a little common sense and several easy, effective and inexpensive

crime prevention measures.

Here are a few thoughts about how you can decrease your chances of becoming a burglary victim: Look at your home through a burglar's eyes. Does it look like an easy target? Are there obvious security weaknesses?

- Shrubby should not obscure doors and windows. Trim the growth so that a burglar cannot work undetected.

- At night leave a few lights burning outside your home. Lights over doorways and garages, and strategically placed floodlights (particularly those with motion detectors) will make your home less inviting to a burglar.

- Windows and doors should be securely locked. Inadequate locks should be replaced or supplemented. Make your home look occupied at all times.

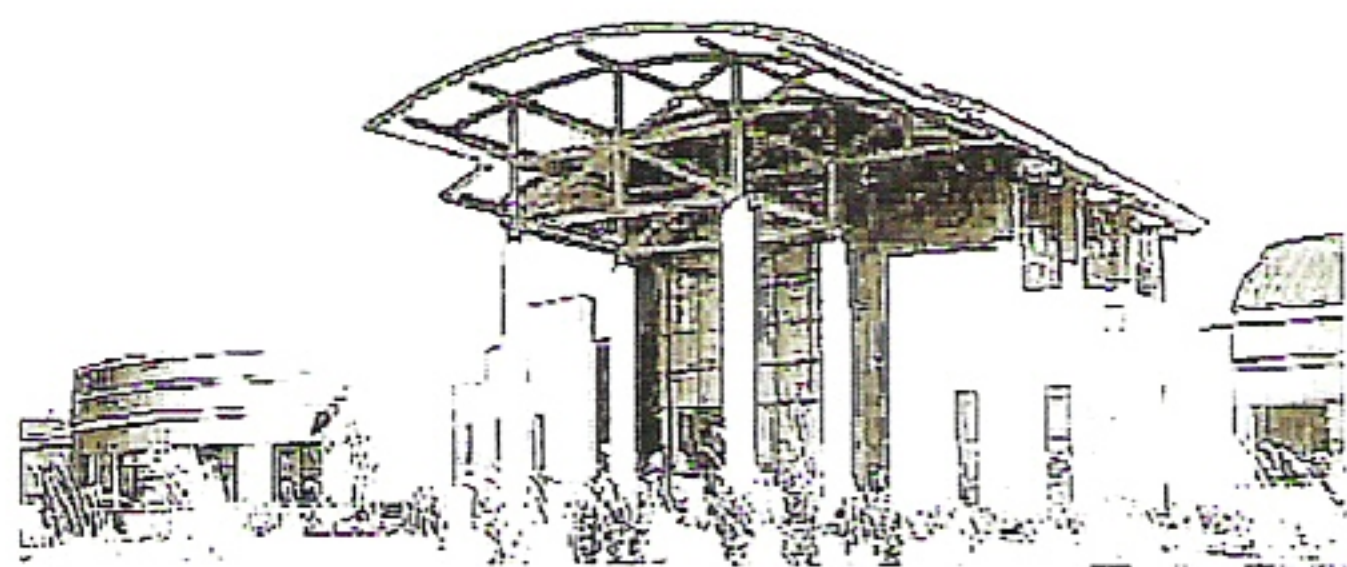
South Precinct Officer receives Odd Fellow Award

Courageous police work by South Precinct Officer Jason Mayo that resulted in the arrest of two dangerous robbers and kidnappers in July of last year has now earned Mayo the Judge John L. Draper Joint Nashville Police Odd Fellow Award for the second half of 2006. For 47 years, Nashville's

Odd Fellows Association has sponsored this award, which is given twice a year to an officer below the rank of lieutenant who makes an arrest of a person already wanted, or who makes a criminal case based on the original citing of a traffic law violator. Mayo received a \$500 cash award.

Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Odd Fellow Award winner Officer Jason Mayo, and Odd Fellow Association member Patrick Wells.





Winter 2007
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Precinct Commander:
Commander Rick Lankford



If you have any questions or comments about any contents of this newsletter, please contact:

Community Coordinator:
 Sgt Chris Warner
 cwarner@police.nashville.org
 615-880-3182



The Colors of Our Community

Metro Nashville Police For Career Opportunities Call 862-7341

Gun Locks Still Available

Gunlocks are still available to citizens free of charge on a first come, first served basis at the police department's six precinct stations.

The gunlocks are provided through a partnership with Project ChildSafe, the nationwide firearms safety education program that was developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The program is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

"Anyone who has a firearm in the same home with a child should seriously consider getting one of these free gunlocks," Chief Serpas said. "Doing so might well prevent a tragic gun accident."

Gunlocks are available Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



The following statistics represent the dedication and hard work of the officers of the South Precinct.

Year to Date stats:	YTD	Previous YTD	% Change
Felony Arrests	2,021	1,978	2.17%
Misdemeanor Arrests	5,005	4,048	23.64%
Citation Arrests	8,881	7,496	18.48%
Drug Equipment Arrests	1,268	1,183	7.19%
Narcotic Violations	1,850	1,653	12.6%
Weapon Violations	158	206	-23.3%
Traffic Violations	32,775	32,397	1.17%
Per. Injury Accidents	1,677	1,719	-2.44%
Total Traffic Accidents	6,318	6,383	-1.03%

Source: Compstat Report ending 12/27/2007

Park Smart!

A review of stolen vehicle reports in Nashville listed in the chart below were easy targets because the keys were left inside or made available to thieves.



The police department's continuing PARK SMART campaign strongly urges citizens to lock their automobile doors, secure any valuables and REMOVE THE KEYS.

Officers also urge citizens to SHOP SMART by not leaving purses or other valuables unattended in shopping carts, even for a very short time. An unattended purse is an easy target for a thief.

2007 Percentage stolen w/keys

